



Inside CFSA



For Our Child-Serving Community

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Adoption Resource Center to Open in December

Individuals and families who adopt children in Washington, D.C. will gain a new source of information, assistance, and support when the Adoption Resource Center opens next month. The Center will provide a variety of services free of charge to anyone who has finalized, or will finalize, an adoption in the District's Family Court. The non-profit Family & Child Services of Washington, D.C. will operate the Adoption Resource Center under a contract with CFSA. A grand opening is being planned for early December.



Services available to individuals and families in any stage of the process of adopting in the District include: support groups, short-term counseling, a resource library, training seminars for adoptive parents, and information about and referral to organizations that provide other adoption-related services through the city. Families who have already adopted in Washington, D.C. can call the Center's 24-hour crisis help line for emergency assistance.

"With adoption on the rise in the District, there's a need for a comforting, convenient place where adoptive families can turn for information and support," said Olivia Golden, director, D.C. Child and Family Services Agency. "We also hope that making new services readily available will encourage more people to adopt District children waiting for permanent homes."

In December, people in any stage of the adoption process in Washington, D.C. can visit the Adoption Resource Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and by appointment on Saturday. For more information, they can contact the center at (202) 289-1057 or visit www.adoptionresourcecenterdc.org.

*Special acknowledgement to **The Mayor's Advisory Council on Permanent Homes for Children** for their oversight and leadership in bringing this project into fruition.*

Meetings Give Families A Voice

In the past, with too many cases and too few services, CFSA social workers focused on resolving immediate emergencies and ensuring living arrangements for children were safe. Today, with dramatic declines in

individual caseloads and improvements in the quality of placements, it is possible to do much more. CFSA has launched a project to institutionalize Facilitated Family Team Meetings, which will bring together birth families and friends, professionals, foster families and community services to consider options before every removal and placement change of a child.

While CFSA now conducts family meetings in some situations, experience around the country has shown that outcomes for children dramatically improve when they occur at the start of every case. These meetings:

- Give families a voice;
- Unearth unexpected supports and resources in the extended family and community;
- Speed the process of permanence for children, either at home or elsewhere; and
- Ensure that social workers base decisions about removal on the best information available.

Experts from both CFSA Clinical Practice and the Annie E. Casey Foundation are working with a team of volunteers from throughout our agency--and soon with external stakeholders as well--to incorporate Facilitated Family Team Meetings into our practices over the coming year.

Celebrating Final Adoptions in Court

CFSA and the District's Family Court will host the 17th annual Adoption Day in Court, featuring public finalization of adoptions, Nov. 22. Author and screenwriter Antwone Fisher will be the keynote speaker this year. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to noon at D.C. Superior Court, H. Carl Moultrie 1 Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, NW. ■



CFSA Public Information faxes this newsletter monthly to providers and other partners. To provide comments or to update your fax number, call (202) 442-6015. Editor: Derek Stewart ■